

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN NOVEMBER 1999

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in November 1999 decreased 11% compared to the prior month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Annualized year-to-date production was 41.2 million metric tons, which was 7% lower than the total production in 1998.

Domestic phosphate rock sold or used, excluding exports for November, decreased 1% from the prior month, to 3.3 million tons. Annualized year-to-date sales or use was 41.7 million tons, which was 5% lower than the total for 1998.

U.S. producer ending stocks for November were 1% higher than the figure shown in October.

Some phosphate rock import data for Morocco are suppressed by the Bureau of the Census. U.S. import tonnage was estimated by USGS to average 175,000 tons per month in 1999. November import data were not available at the time of publication.

Annualized domestic consumption for 1999 was calculated to be 43.5 million tons using annualized sold and used data and estimated trade data. Apparent domestic consumption for 1998, calculated from the sum of home deliveries and adjusted import data, was 45.0 million tons.

On November 11, IMC Global, Inc. announced that it would reduce its phosphate fertilizer capacity by more than 20% through a combination of permanent and temporary plant closures. The Faustina, LA, phosphoric acid plant, which has a production capacity of 517,000 metric tons per year (t/yr), was shut down

immediately for an indefinite period. It was not expected to operate in 2000. In addition, diammonium phosphate (DAP) and granular monoammonium phosphate (GMAP) production will be reduced by one-third until market conditions improve. The Nichols, FL, plant, which had annual production capacities of 227,000 t/yr phosphoric acid and 500,000 t/yr combined DAP/GMAP, will be permanently closed and dismantled. Triple superphosphate production (363,000 t/yr capacity) at New Wales, FL, will cease in early 2000. The Payne Creek mine and beneficiation facility will close permanently. This combined with the previously announced closure of the Noralyn Mine because of exhausted reserves, will reduce IMC Phosphates mine production capacity by about 25% (IMC Global, 1999).

CF Industries, Inc. reduced output of DAP at its Plant City, FL, plant in late November. Although the exact tonnage was not revealed, the company indicated that it would be substantial. This follows similar reductions enacted by other producers to reduce supplies of DAP (Green Markets, 1999).

References Cited

- Green Markets, 1999, CF to make substantial DAP cut at Plant City: Green Markets, v. 23, no. 46, November 15, p. 9.
IMC Global, Inc., 1999, IMC Global announces significant phosphate plant and mine shutdowns: Northbrook, IL, IMC Global, Inc. press release, November 11, 2 p.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS, BY REGION 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Region and period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks 2/
United States:			
1998:			
November	3,680	3,510	8,050
December	3,480	3,530	7,920
January - December	44,200	43,700	XX
1999:			
January	3,410	3,400	7,730
February	3,070	3,190	7,600
March	3,500	3,710	7,340
April	3,280	3,640	6,880
May	3,680	3,940	6,620
June	3,690	3,400	6,910
July	3,540	3,610	6,750
August	3,690	3,530	6,920
September	3,140	3,220	6,820
October	3,560	3,290	7,040
November	3,160 p/	3,250 p/	7,120 p/
Total	37,700	38,200	XX
Florida and North Carolina:			
1998:			
November	3,360	3,130	6,660
December	3,110	3,130	6,540
January - December	38,700	38,000	XX
1999:			
January	2,970	2,990	6,420
February	2,760	2,840	6,330
March	3,120	3,290	6,100
April	2,780	3,150	5,620
May	3,100	3,340	5,380
June	3,030	2,940	5,430
July	2,980	3,010	5,300
August	3,080	3,070	5,320
September	2,690	2,700	5,300
October	2,840	2,880	5,200
November	2,850 p/	2,860 p/	5,370 p/
Total	32,200	33,100	XX
Idaho and Utah:			
1998:			
November	312	384	1,390
December	368	403	1,380
January - December	5,490	5,640	XX
1999:			
January	436	413	1,310
February	314	352	1,280
March	375	412	1,240
April	499	483	1,260
May	582	604	1,240
June	662	461	1,480
July	563	602	1,440
August	614	459	1,600
September	445	520	1,530
October	726	407	1,850
November	306	392	1,760
Total	5,520	5,110	XX

p/ Preliminary. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK 1/ 2/ 3/

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value
1998:		
October	78	5,530
November	--	--
December	62	3,800
January - December	806	42,400
Total year 4/	1,760	92,700
1999:		
January	60	3,280
February	63	3,420
March	68	3,670
April	66	4,000
May	69	4,110
June	64	3,820
July	1	69
August	88	5,000
September	132	6,730
October	68	4,040
Total	679	38,100

1/ C.i.f. (cost, insurance, and freight) values at U.S. ports.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Data for the current month were not available at time of publication.

4/ Includes estimate for data suppressed by Bureau of the Census.

Source: Bureau of the Census; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco were suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3
COMPARATIVE U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	1997	1998	1999 1/
Marketable production:			
Florida and North Carolina	39.8	38.7	35.2
Idaho and Utah	6.1	5.5	6.0
Total 2/	45.9	44.2	41.2
Sold or used by producers:			
Florida and North Carolina	36.6	38.0	36.1
Idaho and Utah	5.5	5.6	5.6
Total 2/	42.1	43.7	41.7
Yearend stocks	7.9	7.9	7.1
Exports 3/	0.3	0.4	0.3
Average value per ton	\$34.80	\$42.70	\$48.98
Imports for consumption e/	1.8	1.8	2.1
Average value per ton	\$50.19	\$52.66	NA
Apparent consumption e/ 4/	43.6	45.0	43.5

e/ Estimated. NA Not available.

1/ Annualized data.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

3/ Source: Bureau of the Census.

4/ Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports minus exports.